CONFERENCE ON DISARMAMENT

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NOTE VERBALE DATED 5 OCTOBER 1995 FROM THE PERMANENT MISSION OF CHILE TO THE SECRETARIAT OF THE CONFERENCE ON DISARMAMENT TRANSMITTING A STATEMENT BY THE GOVERNMENT OF CHILE CONDEMNING THE SECOND NUCLEAR TEST CARRIED OUT BY FRANCE ON 1 OCTOBER 1995 AT FANGATAUFA ATOLL

The Permanent Mission of Chile to the Conference on Disarmament presents its compliments to the secretariat of the Conference on Disarmament and has the honour to attach to the present note a statement by the Government of Chile condemning the second nuclear test carried out by France on 1 October at Fangataufa atoll, and to request it to circulate the statement as an official document of the Conference on Disarmament.

STATEMENT

The Government of Chile condemns and rejects most forcefully the second nuclear test carried out by France yesterday at Fangataufa atoll in the South Pacific.

This explosion constitutes a significant setback in the dynamics of nuclear disarmament and a potential risk for the health and security of people as well as the environment and living resources of neighbouring countries in the Pacific.

In political terms, the moment chosen by France for this second explosion is particularly inappropriate since it coincides with the first week of debates at the United Nations and the eve of the meeting of heads of State of the Organization. This circumstance redoubles the Government of Chile's determination to pursue its condemnation in all international forums.

In this context, Chile supports and is actively participating in the initiative taken by the Council of the Agency for the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons in Latin America and the Caribbean (OPANAL) to join the members of the Consultative Committee of the South Pacific Nuclear Free Zone Treaty (Treaty of Rarotonga) to submit a draft resolution to the fiftieth United Nations General Assembly urging all nuclear States to institute an immediate moratorium on all nuclear tests and to sign a treaty for the total prohibition of such tests (CTBT) during 1996.

The Government of Chile once again fervently calls on the Government of France to desist from the continuation of this programme of tests.

Santiago, 2 October 1995